

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

THE GAME BIRDS OF KENYA AND UGANDA.

[By SIR FREDERICK JACKSON, K.C.M.G., ETC.]

Williams and Norgate, 1926. Price 25/-

A NATURALIST IN EAST AFRICA.

[By G. D. CARPENTER, D.M., ETC.]

Clarendon Press, 1926. Price 15/-

The appearance of a book on the Game Birds of Kenya and Uganda, from the pen of Sir Frederick Jackson, is of peculiar interest to the older residents of the Colony and Protectorate, and especially to members of the Natural History Society. It was largely due to the keen enthusiasm and energy of Sir Frederick that the Society came into being, and for many years he held the office of President. We have long looked forward to a book of this sort and the compilation of it has ever been uppermost in Sir Frederick's mind. A book from the pen of the "Father of East African Naturalists" cannot help but be of the greatest interest and value. This volume contains descriptions and notes on the Francolin, Guinea-Fowl, Quail, Sandrouse, Snipe, Duck, Geese, and Pigeons.

As is to be expected, the notes are full of first-hand information regarding habits, etc., gathered together, during many years' residence, by a first class observer. To those of us who have the pleasure of knowing Sir Frederick, as a man and a Naturalist, the book appeals—for it breathes his personality—quiet and unassertive, giving credit where credit is due. To the Sportsman as well as the Naturalist, the book will be useful; it is full of anecdotes of the chase, and gives one an insight into the early days of the Colony. Thus we read: "Currie and self, on the cowcatcher of goods train; stopped train and in about a quarter of an hour to twenty minues bagged eleven and a half brace, lost a few others." Imagine stopping a train in these time-table days

to do a bit of Quail shooting on the way up from Mombasa! Again we read of observations being made from the Secretariat windows, on the call note of Snipe which resorted to a swamp below the said building. Would that these strenuous days were with us once again!

Of criticism we would offer the following. It is to be regretted that the spelling of individual place names have not been corrected so as to correspond; and the selection of English names might have been done with greater care. We note certain omissions not only of geographical races, but species also; thus no mention is made of the Common European Teal and the Wigeon as migrants to Kenya, and the Indian Pin-tail Snipe is ignored; further Reichenow's Dove is omitted.

The illustrations might have been improved upon; most are old and have appeared in other publications.

These, however, are minor points which are easy of correction in later issues, and do not really detract from an excellent work. By the publication of this book, Sir Frederick has forestalled a similar work now appearing in parts in this Journal; however, the one should supplement the other, and neither be redundant.

The book by Dr. Carpenter of Uganda, supplies information regarding other branches of Nature not touched upon by Sir Frederick Jackson.

It is really a companion volume to the Doctor's previous work, "A Naturalist on Lake Victoria." As is to be expected, observations on insect-life form the bulk of the subject matter, and at this special subject, Carpenter is first rate. Mimicry and mimetic associations are dealt with at length; but there are also masses of notes on a host of other subjects.

It is a book we can heartily recommend to members of the Society and to the general public. The work is fully illustrated with numerous photographs.